

## **Eco-Cruise - Hackensack RiverKeeper**

Tuesday, June 28<sup>th</sup> 6pm (sunset is 8:30)  
Leave from River Barge Park in Carlstadt, NJ  
(Directions to be provided)  
\$40 – members - \$42 – non-members

An Eco-Cruise is a fully narrated environmental education tour – and the BEST way to explore the Hackensack River, the marshes of the Meadowlands, and Newark Bay. Up to 10 people for each of the two large and comfortable pontoon boats: the **Robert H. Boyle II and Geraldine Theresa** for a unique, informative, and FUN time on the water.

Meadowlands Discovery Tour is the original Hackensack River Environmental education tour! Watch wildlife, explore wetlands and learn all about the natural and human history of the Hackensack Meadowlands. Be sure to bring your binoculars and cameras!

**MEADOWLANDS DISCOVERY (M)** – This trip takes participants on an excursion through the lower tidal reaches of the Hackensack River and its wildlife-rich estuary, the Meadowlands. The shallow draft of our boats enables us to visit numerous wetlands including the Mill Creek Marsh, Kingsland Creek and the Berry's Creek Canal; the highlight of every Meadowlands Eco-Cruise being the Sawmill Creek Wildlife Management Area – the “Jewel of the Meadowlands”. The Sawmill is home to a staggering amount of birdlife including shorebirds, ducks, herons, raptors and more.

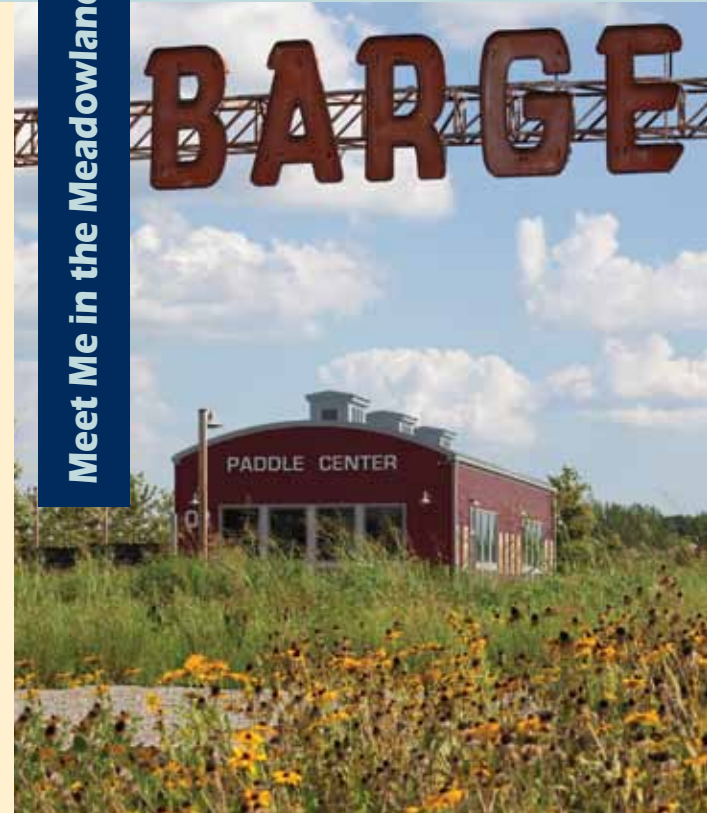
**PLEASE NOTE:** Regardless of itinerary or type of Eco-Cruise, Hackensack Riverkeepers endeavor to provide the best on-water experience possible while relating the natural and human history of the region.

This private group Eco-Cruise for GSSC and will leave from the marina at River Barge Park in Carlstadt, NJ. Please [click here](#) for directions.



**The NJSEA offers a number of resources for Meadowlands District municipalities and educational programs for the public. They include:**

- 🚣 Digital mapping services
- 🚣 Shared heavy equipment pool, including jet-vac truck
- 🚣 Scientific research and air, soil and water quality testing conducted by the Meadowlands Environmental Research Institute (MERI)
- 🚣 Guided pontoon boat cruises, canoe tours and nature walks
- 🚣 More than 21 parks and eight miles of walking and hiking trails
- 🚣 Annual Butterfly Day
- 🚣 Year-round environmentally themed workshops and programs for all ages, including animal visits and art work shops
- 🚣 Science and environmental education programs for students in Grades K-12 focusing on ecology, chemistry, biology, astronomy and natural history
- 🚣 Public viewing nights and astronomy lessons at the William D. McDowell Observatory
- 🚣 Annual Halloween Party and Spooky Walk
- 🚣 The Flyway Gallery, featuring local environmental art exhibits
- 🚣 Tideland Treasures gift shop, featuring environmentally themed educational products for kids, birding books, home and garden decor, and much more.



**About the NJSEA:** The New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority is the planning and zoning agency for the 30.4-square-mile Meadowlands District, comprised of parts of 14 municipalities in Bergen and Hudson counties. In February 2015 the former New Jersey Meadowlands Commission (NJMC) was consolidated into the NJSEA.

**Nature programming:** In collaboration with the Bergen County Audubon Society, the NJSEA offers free twice monthly nature walks and additional special events. For a complete schedule, go to [njmeadowlands.gov](http://njmeadowlands.gov) and click on "Events." The Sports Authority also offers guided pontoon boat tours and canoe trips of the Hackensack River.

**The Meadowlands Nature Blog:** [meadowblog.net](http://meadowblog.net), includes daily updates and great photography of the region's flora and fauna, environmental-themed news and information about NJSEA public programs.

Created in 1969, the NJMC (now NJSEA) has fought to end illegal dumping and encourage appropriate development in the Meadowlands District, and has helped to protect thousands of acres of wetlands and open space. The agency has also developed or contributed to the design of 21 parks throughout the District.



**New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority**  
One DeKorte Park Plaza • P.O. Box 640 • Lyndhurst, New Jersey • 07071  
201.460.1700  
[njsea.com](http://njsea.com)

**Meadowlands Environment Center**  
Two DeKorte Park Plaza • Lyndhurst, New Jersey • 07071  
201.460.8300  
[njsea.com/ec](http://njsea.com/ec)



RBP 2000 5-13



## Come and explore the New Jersey Meadowlands!

### Welcome to River Barge Park

Welcome to River Barge Park. This award winning 5.5-acre, handicapped-accessible urban jewel is located on the Hackensack River in Carlstadt and provides much-needed public access to the river in southern Bergen County.

River Barge Park offers a variety of boating activities, splendid riverfront views and a tranquil setting for relaxation, bird watching and environmental education. The park includes a boat ramp, docks, paddling and rowing launch points, a marina with 17 public slips for rental, a scenic promenade with picnic tables, and paths lined by native plants.

The docks serve as the launch point for the NJSEA's highly popular pontoon boat cruises. The two-hour cruises run from late May through September and are led by experienced guides who explain the region's history and point out the area's flora and fauna. The NJSEA also offers guided canoe tours throughout the Meadowlands.

The new park has a rich history. In the 1940s, the site was part of Sky Harbor, a seaplane base that trained hundreds of aviators during World War II. The property later became the home of the Barge Club, an iconic area restaurant named for two early twentieth century wooden railroad barges that made up the core of the facility. The restaurant owner's collection of nautical and regional artifacts, including ballasts and channel markers, are displayed throughout the property. The park's beautifully

illustrated interpretive signs further evoke a sense of place and identity.

River Barge Park advances the NJSEA's commitment to sustainability and green building through its incorporation of energy-efficient LED railing lights, solar powered and LED marina lights, and environmentally friendly stormwater management, collection, and filtering systems.

In 2013, the former NJMC received a Chapter Award from the New Jersey Chapter of the American Society of Landscape Architects for River Barge Park's ecologically sustainable site design.

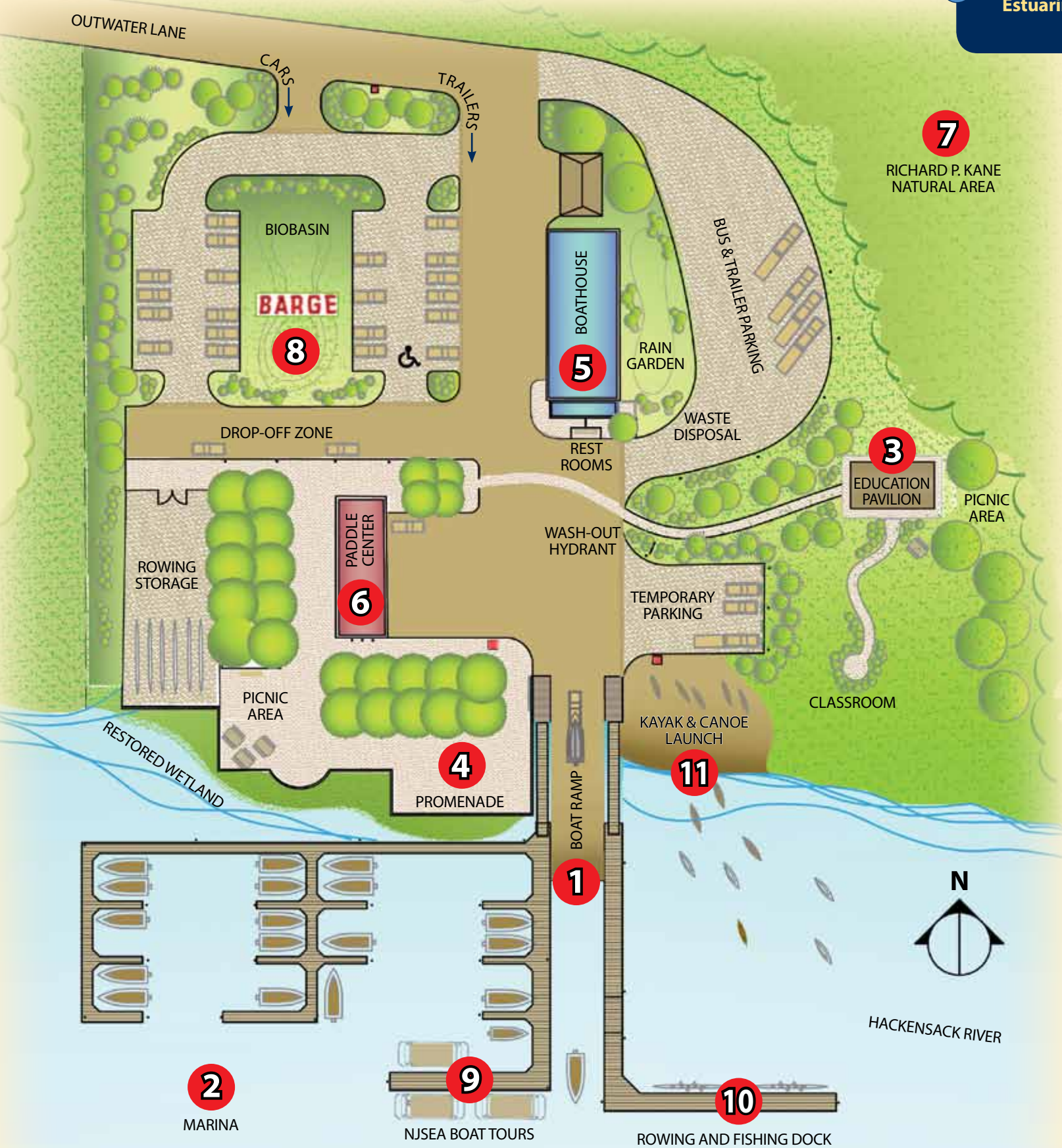


Website: [njsea.com](http://njsea.com)  
Nature Blog: [meadowblog.net](http://meadowblog.net)



# New Jersey Sports and Exposition Authority River Barge Park

Major funding for River Barge Park was provided by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration through its Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program.



## The Big Picture



The Hackensack River estuary encompasses the southern part of the river and its adjoining marshes and mudflats. It is part of the larger New York/New Jersey Harbor estuary, located at the confluence of the Hudson River and many smaller rivers – including the East River in New York and the Raritan River in New Jersey.

Estuaries are bodies of water where rivers meet the ocean and salt water meets fresh water. The unique characteristics of estuaries make them diverse and productive ecosystems that are home to many types of plants and wildlife.

The Hackensack River flows 50 miles from Lake Lucille in Rockland County, New York, south to Newark Bay. The waterway is essentially divided by the Oradell Dam into two rivers, with fresh water north of the dam and brackish (a mix of fresh water and salt water) south of the dam.

**Paddlers, pay attention to the tides! The tidal currents on the Hackensack River can be strong, and it is important to know when they are going in or out. In the Meadowlands there are tidal changes of up to six feet twice a day. Paddling is easiest around high or low tide, or heading south when the tide is going out and heading north when the tide is coming in. Free canoe guides are available by calling the number below. Also, there are free mobile applications available that can give you the tide at Carlstadt, Garrett's Reach. One such app is at [tideapp.com](http://tideapp.com).**

### Additional guides:

- *The New Jersey Meadowlands: A Natural Escape*
- *Richard W. DeKorte Park Trail Guide*
- *Richard W. DeKorte Park Butterfly Guide*
- *Birds of the Meadowlands Checklist*
- *Hackensack River Boating and Paddle Guide*

To receive free copies, call 201.777.2431.

For more information about our public programs or to register for a pontoon boat cruise and canoe tour call 201-460-4677.

### 1 Public Boat Ramp

The 120-foot-long, 30-foot-wide launch ramp provides river access for trailerable boats up to 30 feet long, with ample parking nearby for vehicles and boat trailers.

### 2 Marina

The marina adjacent to the boat ramp includes 17 slips available for seasonal rentals. The marina is designed to meet The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and American Boating Association Accessibility Guidelines. The marina has six accessible boat slips.

### 3 Environmental Education Pavilion

The Robert Ceberio Environmental Education Pavilion, named after the NJMC's former Executive Director, is located on an adjacent property owned by the Meadowlands Conservation Trust (MCT). The 635-square-foot, open-air structure provides an outdoor classroom in a setting that demonstrates first-hand the importance of environmental preservation. The pavilion features a thatched roof consisting of Phragmites from New Jersey marshes, while the pavilion, tables and bench furnishings

were constructed with 300-year-old, first-growth long-leaf yellow pine timbers salvaged from the Barge Club, the restaurant that previously occupied the site.

### 4 The Promenade

The 425-foot-long Promenade offers wonderful Hackensack River views, bird-watching opportunities, plenty of seating and several picnic tables made from recycled wood salvaged from the Barge Club.

### 5 Boat House

The old barges inspired the architectural design of this boathouse where the NJSEA stores its boats off-season

### 6 Paddle Center

The Paddle Center is where the NJSEA's canoes are stored. The center is also used for indoor programs, including talks and slide shows.

### 7 The Richard P. Kane Natural Area

The restored wetlands, directly adjacent to the park are part of the 587-acre Richard P. Kane Natural Area owned by the Meadowlands Conservation Trust.

### 8 The old Barge Club Sign

Saved as a historic element, the existing 30-foot tall sign was refurbished with energy-efficient red LED lights. In the 1970s it was home to the Barge Club Restaurant.

### 9 Pontoon Boat Boarding Dock

The NJSEA's popular two-hour pontoon-boat eco-cruises leave from this dock. Don't forget your camera: the natural landscapes and flora and fauna make for great photo opportunities.

### 10 Rowing and Fishing Dock

This 130-foot-long rowing and fishing dock running parallel to the Hackensack River is the designated launch point for rowers. Catch-and-release fishing is strongly encouraged. Please read the posted fishing rules carefully before consuming any fish from the river.

### 11 Kayak/Canoe Launch

The shoreline to the west of the boat ramp is the designated launching area for kayaks and canoes. Water shoes are highly recommended when using the launching area. Check out the paddle map that identifies paddle trails and boat launches along the Hackensack River.